



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Funded Housing Project In Maize Dedicated **Nearly 100 New Homes Built In South-central Kansas**

Maize, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today joined fourteen families who are constructing homes in Maize by participating in the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*. Also present for today's groundbreaking ceremonies were officials from Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services, Inc. of Wichita, USDA Rural Development's technical assistance partner for the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* in south-central Kansas, and Maize Mayor Clair Donnelly.

In remarks during the ceremonies, State Director Banks commented, "USDA Rural Development has a long history of providing funding assistance to improve affordable housing opportunities in Kansas. Expanding homeownership is important, given housing's link to personal economic prosperity. USDA Rural Development will continue to provide funding and technical assistance support for achieving this important goal through the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* and *Single-Family Housing Loan Program* across rural Kansas.

Mayor Donnelly remarked, "Maize is proud to be a partner with USDA Rural Development and Mennonite Housing to improve the availability of affordable housing in our community. This is an exciting opportunity."

State Director Banks also commented during the ceremony, "To date, through the partnership with Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services, Inc. of Wichita, USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* is closing in on its 100th home built in this area. USDA Rural Development has invested over \$7 million in loans to support this important home-building effort in Sedgwick County alone."

As a condition of this Agency program, future homeowners are required to personally supply 65% of the labor to construct their house. With the assistance of four non-profit housing partners, USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* has resulted in the construction of nearly 200 new single-family homes in Kansas. Individuals interested in learning more about the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* activities in south-central Kansas can contact USDA Rural Development's office at 785-271-2723.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life of rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information, log onto the state's Rural Development website at:

www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks .

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